the spoken language, when added to other words, make clear the case or the sense and so give the effect of inflection. Sentences have a fixed word order—such as subject, verb, and object. Then there is the use of tones. Peking *mandarin* has four, some other types of *mandarin* five, and other dialects still more —Cantonese nine. A given syllable may be pronounced in any one of the tones permitted by the particular dialect of the region. This, therefore, at once multiplies by four or more the number of vocables. Moreover, any given meaning has only one appropriate tone (although in speaking the sound may, in actual practice, be varied) and the tone is an integral part of the word. Here, however, room exists for confusion between dialects: although the Chinese have names for each of the tones and a given word is pronounced with what the Chinese call the same tone, even in different varieties of *mandarin* the musical representations (so far as that is possible) of the four or five tones differ. Thus what is called the "rising" tone as spoken in Changsha sounds quite different from that of Hankow.

Another effective device for avoiding confusion—as in many other languages—is the context. Still another is the use of what are sometimes known as classifiers. Thus in *mandarin* one never speaks of "a man" as *i jen,* but as *i ko jen, i* being "one," *ko* the classifier, and *jen* "man." There are a number of classifiers, often a special one being inseparable from a certain type of objects, somewhat as we say "a strip of paper" or "a chunk of wood." The classifier frequently gives a clue to the nature of the noun which follows. Thus *k'ou,* or "mouth," is used before words mean-

ing "well" and "pot" and some other objects having a round opening.

Then the Chinese often use together two words of approximately or exactly the same meaning. Thus *k'an,* meaning "see," and *chien,* also meaning "see," are combined into *k'an chien.* While *k'an* and *chien* each has several meanings, there is little likelihood of ambiguity when the two are joined. Little misunderstanding arises if the phoenix is called *f£ng,huang, feng* being the male and *huang* the female, for while *feng* and *huang* separately have several meanings, the combination is not likely to be mistaken for something else.

A descriptive word may be prefixed. Thus a tiger is not called